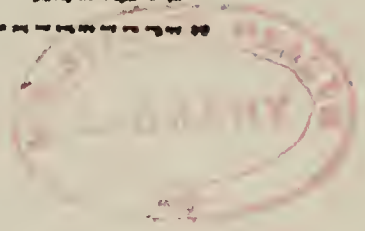


LIBRARY

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the

SOUTH HERTS (No.1) COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT



-----oOo-----

MALCOLM GROSS

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

----- 1 9 4 5 -----

The number of cases of SCARLET FEVER notified during the year was 67, as compared with 79 cases in 1944 and 125 in 1943. Two cases were nursed at home. There were no deaths.

There were 24 cases of DYSENTERY notified (excluding 24 Service cases from overseas). One of these cases was Flexner Dysentery. Of the other 23 cases, 17 occurred in institutions. An outbreak at a residential nursery, where 12 cases occurred among children and staff, caused considerable trouble.

Seven cases of POLIOMYELITIS occurred in the District in the autumn months. Detailed investigation failed to trace definite connection between these cases.

During the year there were 17 contacts of TYPHUS FEVER in the District. In two cases the arrival of a close contact necessitated the careful collection and disinfection of a number of articles. Sanitary Inspectors and Typhus Team personnel received immunisation against Typhus during the year.

17 contacts of cases of SMALLPOX came into the District. These were constantly supervised by me.

A fatal case of TETANUS occurred in a child who was injured while playing on a piece of waste ground which had formerly formed part of a garden. A warning against encroachment on this ground has been placed on it.

Cases of DIPHTHERIA totalled 4 (excluding 3 Service cases from overseas). Of these four, two were children under school age - one aged 6 months, the other aged just one year; neither had been immunised. The other two cases were adults. All the cases were removed to isolation hospital. There were no deaths.

The Diphtheria IMMUNISATION SCHEME was pursued throughout the year. Under this Scheme the treatment may be obtained free on request from any local practitioner in the District or at the various immunisation clinics or welfare centres. Estimates indicate that the percentage of children from 1 to 15 immunised is in the neighbourhood of 70, those below 5 years being somewhat in the ascendant.

It is with regret that I record the death of Dr. Constance Stoker who conducted a number of the immunisation clinics in the District over a number of years, and whose valuable help is much missed.

There was a sharp rise in the number of persons dealt with at the District Cleansing Station during the year. Treatment was mainly for cases or contacts of SCABIES and totalled 244, as compared with a figure of 163 in 1944. Out of the 244, 10 were dealt with for verminous conditions other than Scabies.

Under the Ministry of Health Circular 273, INSULIN was provided free of charge to 12 cases of Diabetes, 4 for the first time in 1945.

Under the auspices of the Hertfordshire Joint Rural Housing Advisory Committee, which was formed in 1944, a Rural Housing Survey was inaugurated in 1945. This Survey had as its object the categorisation of houses in rural areas according to their fitness as dwellings. In order to obtain a uniform standard of classification, a panel of district medical officers and sanitary inspectors, presided over by the County Medical Officer, drew up a Memorandum representing their views on points to be considered when assessing the merits of a rural house. This was accepted by the Advisory Committee and a Sub-Committee of district sanitary inspectors drew up a record card for the Survey for use throughout the County.

In the Berkhamsted Rural District, lack of staff prevented even a start being made with the Survey.

In the Hemel Hempstead Rural District, good progress was made. By the end of 1945, 573 of the 2,279 houses to be inspected in this District had been inspected, and, not only was the record available for dealing with a long term policy for housing improvement, but, in addition, the Survey had been instrumental in obtaining repairs of an urgent nature in the case of 43 houses.

I would draw attention to the frequent use which has been made of the Ministry of Health Laboratory at Watford in regard to the examination of water, milk and various pathological samples. Further than this, the Staff has greatly assisted in advice and detailed investigation regarding infectious disease problems.

I cannot close these remarks without referring to the loss which I feel the District has sustained in the closure of ASHRIDGE Hospital. Such was the scope of that hospital's capabilities and activities, that I repeatedly received assistance from it in dealing with types of cases for which I could obtain treatment nowhere else in the locality. I would like to record my appreciation for this help and also for the invariable courtesy which characterised the hospital in all my dealings with it.

-----oOo-----

MALCOLM GROSS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Market Square,
Hemel Hempstead,
Herts.
30th. August, 1946.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate
of the resident population) 1945 21,120

Live Births	(Legitimate	Total.	M.	F.	) Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.75
	(Illegitimate	347	176	171	
		49	21	28	
Still-births	(Legitimate	9	6	3	) Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22.2
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths		220	103	117	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
Puerperal and Post		
Abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births 37.9
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 25.9
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births 122.4

Actual number of deaths under one year: Legitimate 9) Total
 Illegitimate 6) 15

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses - Public Health Acts	449
		Housing Act	63
		Overcrowding	50
		Infectious Disease	82
		Complaints investigated	392
		Drainage inspections and tests	251
		Common Lodging Houses	52
		Tents, Vans and Sheds	177
		Stables and Piggeries	12
		Rats and Mice Infestation	1,821
		Factories and Workplaces	160
		Bakehouses	84
		Schools	37
		Shops Acts	142
		Petroleum Stores	32
		Common Yards and Passages	15
		Re-visits to Premises under Notice	815
		Work in Progress	176
		Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	1,310
		Verminous Premises	225
		Cesspools	158
		Rivers and Streams	4
		Miscellaneous visits and inspections	174
		Public Conveniences	18
		Vacant Land and Dumps	5
Meat and Foods	-	Slaughterhouses	59
		Butchers Shops	123
		Fried Fish Shops	38
		Public Markets	144
		General Food Shops and Premises	287
		Dairies and Milk Shops	348
		Cowsheds	260
		Milk Samples taken	98
		Milk Samples tested	68
		Milk Bottles and Churn rinses	30
		Water Samples taken	51

TOTAL VISITS and INSPECTIONS 8,210

=====

Notices Served and Complied with.

<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.44.</u>	<u>Served</u> <u>1945.</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>1945.</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.45.</u>
102	390	365	137

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses	586
Drainage	94
W.C.'s and Dustbins	111
Premises cleared of Rats and Mice	198
Shops Acts	14
Factories and Offices	16
Food Premises	99
Dairies and Cowsheds	76
Common Lodging Houses	20
Miscellaneous	55

Disinfestation.

Fumigation, as described in previous reports, continued to be the method principally employed in cases of heavy infestations of bed-bugs, and satisfactory results were obtained. Less severe infestations were dealt with by spraying with a liquid insecticide.

An opportunity arose for experimenting with D.D.T., small quantities of which were obtained from some research chemists who desired facilities for carrying out tests 'in the field'. The experiments were both interesting and instructive, and provided evidence, beyond all reasonable doubt, of the efficacy of D.D.T. against numerous household pests, such as bugs, fleas, flies, cockroaches and crickets.

The following table gives particulars of the number of houses disinfested for bed-bugs throughout the year, and the number of treatments necessary for the purpose. It will be observed that in all cases, fumigation was completely successful.

Fumigation.

	(a) <u>Houses.</u>	<u>Number of</u> (b) <u>Treatments.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Council Houses	16	16	Initial treatment successful in all cases.
Private Houses	10	10	
Total	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>	

Spraying.

Council Houses	10	12	Two premises afterwards fumigated.
Private Houses	7	9	
Total	<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>	

Disinfestation (continued).

98 loads of bedding were steam treated, mainly for vermin, and 28 houses were disinfected after the occurrence of infectious disease.

Milk Production and Distribution.

(a) Ungraded Milk. Full use was made during the year of the Department's laboratory, established towards the end of 1944 for the purposes of undertaking our own resazurin testing of milk samples, and the table reproduced below shows a summary of the results of the 73 samples procured. The supplies sampled were taken, during surprise visits, from local farms and retail dairies which are not yet subject to sampling under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme and comprise both morning and evening production.

The results are encouraging and compare very favourably with those obtained in other areas; on the other hand it is not unreasonable to expect all milk to comply with the standard laid down for category "A", and until this is achieved, there can be no cause for complacency.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk. Resazurin Tests (For determining keeping quality).

<u>Result of Test.</u>				<u>No. of Samples.</u>	
<u>Category.</u>					
A	(Satisfactory)	...	...	57	(78.08%).
B	(Doubtful)	...	...	15	(20.55%).
C	(Unsatisfactory)	...	...	1	(1.37%).
Total		...	...	73	

(b) Washed Milk Bottles. The practice of submitting washed milk bottles for bacteriological examination was continued during the year and the results obtained again demonstrated the importance of keeping a careful watch upon a process which does not perhaps always receive the attention it demands. Of the eight principal retailers, only two possess steam sterilisation apparatus, one has a mechanically operated washing machine and the others wash by hand. Sodium hypochlorite is now widely used, and the results obtained show a marked improvement over those of the previous year.

The following table shows a comparison of the results for 1944 and 1945, and sets out the various cleansing processes employed. The standard regarded by the bacteriologist as satisfactory is not more than 600 organisms per pint bottle; samples reported to be fairly satisfactory only slightly exceeded this limit.

(Table overleaf).

Milk Production and Distribution (continued).

Summary of the results of bacteriological examination of rinses taken from washed milk bottles during 1945.

<u>Result.</u>	<u>Cleaning Processes.</u>			<u>Total.</u>
	<u>S.Hypo.</u>	<u>Steam.</u>	<u>Water only.</u>	
Satisfactory	20 (7)	6	-	26 (7)
Fairly satisfactory ...	1	1	-	2
Unsatisfactory	-	1 (1)	1 (7)	2 (8)
<u>Total number of samples taken</u>				<u>30(15)</u>

Note: Figures in brackets represent samples taken in 1944.

HOUSING.

1. During the year the following number of houses were:-

(a) Commenced only.

	<u>Local Authority.</u>	<u>Private Enterprise.</u>
Pre-fabricated	-	-
Permanent	32 x	18

x Belswains Lane Site.

(b) Completed.

Pre-fabricated	50	-
Permanent	-	-

2. During the year the following schemes were projected for development of housing sites:-

Anchor Lane Site about 200 houses.
Redbourn Rd. Site between 200-300 houses.
Belswains Lane Site 100 plus houses.

3. The Sanitary Inspector states:-

"Difficulties in securing repairs to dwelling houses continued unabated throughout the year, and resumption of extensive repairs and re-conditioning had to be further postponed. Only urgent repairs were undertaken, and the amount of the Department's time which was necessary to secure compliance with these modified notices was out of all proportion to the work executed".

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Public Supply.

Most of the Borough, comprising the whole of the built-up area, together with some of the outlying parts, is provided with a piped supply of water which (with the exception of a small portion of Felden, supplied by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company) is drawn from the Corporation's two boreholes situated near the centre of the Town. These are in chalk and are 326' and 346' respectively. Both the main supplies are constant and are satisfactory in quantity and quality with the exception that in a few areas, insufficiency sometimes arises from inadequate pressure.

The main at Cupid Green was extended to St. Agnell's Farm, and this will enable seven cottages and a farmhouse to be connected to the public supply.

Information upon the various supplies in use is given in the following table. Twenty-nine houses were connected to the mains during the year, resulting in the abolition of 15 shallow wells, and, in addition, a standpipe serving one house was removed and an internal supply provided.

	(a) <u>Houses.</u>	(b) <u>Persons.</u>
Total number in Borough	5,729	21,440 x
Number supplied from Main -		
(1) direct	5,647	21,138
(2) to outside standpipes	29	116
	<u>5,676</u>	<u>21,254</u>
Number supplied by Wells	53	186
Total	<u>5,729</u>	<u>21,440</u>

x Registrar General's estimated resident population for 1944.

The whole of the water from the public supplies is subjected to chlorination, and twenty-two routine samples were taken throughout the year for bacteriological examination before and after treatment. Of these fifteen were from the Corporation's own chlorinated supplies (all of which were of high quality) and five were of raw water from the same source; two of the latter samples were found to contain coliform bacilli in 100 ml., (3 and 5 untyped, respectively); the other three samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies (continued).

Two samples were taken from the supply of the R. and U.V. Water Company, the first of which was found to have a somewhat high bacterial content, but after flushing out the main a subsequent sample was satisfactory. Three samples taken for chemical analysis were all satisfactory.

(b) Well Supplies.

Routine sampling of well water was undertaken during the year and twenty-five samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Generally speaking, shallow well waters were reported upon unfavourably, and wherever possible steps were taken to secure connections to the mains; fifteen shallow wells were abolished as a result of twenty-nine houses having the public supply provided. In other cases of unsatisfactory reports where a public supply was not available, action was taken, if possible, to improve the supply, and users were advised meanwhile to boil the water before using it for drinking purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

In a few instances improvements were made to drainage systems in unsewered areas but, as has been recorded on previous occasions, no substantial progress can be effected until the Council's post-war sewerage programme has been implemented. Some idea of the magnitude of the task can be gained from the fact that there are still, approximately, 300 houses without main drainage, in 100 of which pail closets are in use. Further details of these conditions may be found in the Annual Report for 1944.

Arrangements for emptying cesspools and pail closets were continued as in previous years, and the number of properties where cesspools were emptied regularly under the Council's Scheme increased slightly from 95 to 104.

The bi-weekly emptying of pail-closets at Bourne End was continued without cost to the occupiers, as also was the weekly collection in the remaining few areas.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified cases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	10	Nil
Measles	496	15	Nil
Whooping Cough	20	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil
Pneumonia	6	3	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Dysentery	4	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis	2	2	Nil
Jaundice	15	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.

Pulmonary 15.
Non-Pulmonary 7.

Deaths.

Pulmonary 6
Non-Pulmonary 2

-----oOo-----

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the
resident population) 1945 9,668

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	167	91	76	) Rate per 1,000 of the
	(Illegitimate	17	10	7	) estimated resident
					population 19.0
Still-births	(Legitimate	1	1	-	) Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-	) (live and still)
					births 5.4
Deaths		107	61	46	Rate per 1,000 of the
					estimated resident
					population 11.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	1	5.4
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil.
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>5.4</u>

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births 16.3
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 12.0
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births 58.8

Actual number of deaths under one year: Legitimate 2) Total
 Illegitimate 1) 3

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses - Public Health Acts	210
		Housing Acts	706
		Overcrowding	14
		Infectious Disease and Disinfection	69
		Complaints investigated	83
		Drainage inspections and tests	53
		Tents, Vans and Sheds	17
		Factories, Work Places, etc.	11
		Bakehouses	15
		Shops Acts	13
		Petroleum Stores	20
		Re-visits to premises under notice ..	236
		Verminous premises	44
		Cesspools	16
		Water samples taken	25
Meat and Food	-	Slaughterhouses	13
		Butchers shops	46
		General food shops and premises	7
		Dairies, milk shops and cowsheds	202

Notices served and complied with.

<u>Out-standing</u> <u>31.12.1944</u>	<u>Served 1945</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>1945.</u>	<u>Out-standing</u> <u>31.12.1945</u>
18	165	120	63

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses	191
Drainage and Cesspools	43
E.C.'s, W.C.'s and Dustbins	32
Factories Acts	2
Shops Acts	Nil
Dairies and Cowsheds	11
Miscellaneous	9

Disinfestation.

11 premises were found to be infested with bugs and 3 with fleas, and liquid insecticides were applied successfully. Tenants were advised regarding the general cleansing of the premises following disinfestation.

HOUSING.

1. Rural Housing Survey - The position at the end of 1945 in regard to this Survey may be summarised as follows:-

Parish	No. of houses in Parish		Number insp-ected.	Number to be insp-ected.	No. of re-insp-ections.	Categories.				
	£20 RV or under.	over £20 R.V.				1	2	3	4	5
Bovingdon	333	138	Nil	333	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Flamstead	267	25	161	106	Nil	21	38	58	9	35
Flaunden	42	8	Nil	42	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Great Gaddesden	258	33	8	250	Nil	-	-	8	-	-
King's Langley	973	390	Nil	973	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Markyate	406	56	404	2	Nil	114	76	130	8	76
Totals ..	2279	650	573	1706	Nil	135	114	196	17	111

Note: Categories -

1. Satisfactory in all respects.
2. Minor Defects.
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable expense.

2. During the year Schemes were projected for the erection of the following number of houses:-

Pre-fabricated : Markyate 11
King's Langley 24

Permanent : Markyate 18
King's Langley 12
Flamstead 8 (Swedish)
Gaddesden Row 6 (Swedish)

All permanent houses to be three-bedroom, Parlour type.

HOUSING (continued).

The Council were also in process of acquiring housing sites at:-

Chipperfield 24 houses.
Bovingdon about 120 houses.
King's Langley 60 houses.
Markyate.
Gaddesden Row.

3. During the year the following number of houses were:-

	<u>Local Authority.</u>	<u>Private Enterprise.</u>
(a) <u>Commenced only.</u>		
Permanent	Nil	7
(b) <u>Completed.</u>		
Permanent	Nil	2

WATER SUPPLY.

Water supplies in the district were found to be satisfactory in quality with an exception at Great Gaddesden, where the Council closed a public well supplying 7 houses and provided an alternative supply of satisfactory quality.

As regards satisfactoriness in quantity, there is no piped supply in the Parish of Great Gaddesden, which is served by three public and a number of other private wells. There is a piped supply in Markyate and Flamstead, but in both of these parishes also a number of properties depend on private wells and boreholes.

Samples of piped supplies have been examined bacteriologically and have proved satisfactory. The supply at Markyate is chlorinated.

No action in respect of contamination has been found necessary.

All piped supplies are constant. Of 2,977 houses, 2,180 (73%) have a piped supply under pressure to the houses, 406 (14%) are served by standpipes, and the remainder consist of isolated cottages, farms, etc., dependent on private wells.

During the year the Council's Consulting Engineers prepared a Draft Scheme for a piped water supply covering the Parishes of Markyate, Flamstead and Great Gaddesden, and this was referred to the County Council and the Ministry of Health.

SEWERAGE.

The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a sewerage scheme covering the Parishes of Markyate, Flamstead, Bovington and Chipperfield.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified diseases (excl. Tuberculosis) during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified.	Admitted to hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	19	19	Nil
Measles	118	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	7	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil
Pneumonia	4	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	4	-	-
Flexner Dysentery	1	1	-
Malaria	2	-	-
Catarrhal Jaundice	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.

Pulmonary 8.
Non-Pulmonary 4.

Deaths.

Pulmonary 3.
Non-Pulmonary 0.

-----oOo-----

 BERKHAMSTED URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of
 resident population) 1945 10,950

Live Births	(Legitimate	Total. 143	M. 77	F. 66	) Rate per 1,000 of the
	(Illegitimate	15	9	6	) estimated resident
					population 14.4
Still-births	(Legitimate	5	3	2	) Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	1	1	-	) (live and still)
					births 36.5
Deaths		128	65	63	Rate per 1,000 of the
					estimated resident
					population 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and Post		
Abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births 31.6
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 35.0
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births Nil.

Actual number of deaths under one year: Legitimate 5) Total
 Illegitimate -) 5

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses - Public Health	
		and Housing Acts	101
		Infectious Disease and	
		disinfection	87
		Drainage inspections and tests	14
		Common Lodging Houses	4
		Verminous Premises	12
		Water Samples - main supply	7
		Swimming Bath Water - tests of	3
Meat and Food	-	Meat Shops	26
		Markets	61
		General Food Shops	37
		Dairies and Milk Shops	3
		Fish Shops	12
		Canteens and Restaurants	5
		Milk samples examined by "Minit" test.	87

Disinfestation.

The Sanitary Inspector states:- "In 3 cases families were cleansed and their bedding and furniture treated by hydrogen cyanide before occupying Council houses. Towards the end of the year, spraying with D.D.T. was adopted as the method of disinfesting houses and furniture. One Council house was sprayed with 2 gallons of a 5% solution of D.D.T., while still occupied, with satisfactory results."

During the year a considerable amount of detailed work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector in regard to the usage of D.D.T. The following are some of his conclusions:-

1. Destruction of Bed-bugs.

Quantity.

(a) using 5% D.D.T. in kerosene as a liquid spray, For the average 3-bedroom non-parlour type house about $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons are required.

(b) using 10% D.D.T. in inert dust as a powder. 1 lb. of powder is suggested for bedding and furniture.

Apparatus.

A coarse droplet spray, such as is used for spraying formalin is good. Sprayers of the 'Flit' type are not found to be of much use.

Technique.

The spray should be directed to the walls and ceiling edges. Floors are not sprayed. The highly polished surfaces of furniture should be protected. Food should be moved out of the way. Plants should be moved. Naked lights and fires should be extinguished.

Disinfestation (continued).

Furniture.

Out-of-sight parts of furniture may be treated with spray - the underside of chair seats and table tops, the backs and internal surfaces of cupboards, the backs of pictures. Upholstery should be treated with powder forced into the seams and folds.

Effects of Temperature.

The bed-bug is not so active in cold weather as in hot. In cold weather it may remain semi-dormant for some weeks and it may not come into contact with the insecticide during that time. Live bugs have been found in houses three weeks after spraying in cold weather.

Instructions to Owners and Occupiers.

It has been found that the general public have little idea of the characteristics of D.D.T. and the technique of using it. They expect immediate action and do not understand the importance of the residual effect. A circular is sent to owners and occupiers of houses which have been treated:-

Notes for the Owner or Occupier of a house which has been sprayed against insects.

The dwelling house known as.....
was sprayed on 19... with an insecticide which contains D.D.T.

D.D.T. is a white substance and you will see it upon dark painted surfaces and upon glass when the spray has dried. It will also be present on other surfaces where you cannot see it so easily.

Insects will die within about two days if they touch this white substance, so do not wipe it off any more than you can help. The substance is harmless to human-beings and animals.

D.D.T. is powerful against insects but it acts slowly, so give it at least three weeks to do its work before you wash down, strip or redecorate any part of the house. It remains effective for several months.

If you find any insects alive after one month, you should let me know.

Keep this house clean and look out for the insects to prevent it becoming infested again. Do not take into the house any second-hand furniture which may be infested. If you have any articles of furniture which you think may be infested the Council will deal with them free of charge.

(sgd)
Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfestation (Continued).

2. Destruction of Flies.

Materials and quantity used.

The same solution has been used successfully against flies. Houses near to a refuse disposal tip became heavily infested and, although the proper course of action is the proper control of the tip and the elimination of the breeding ground, considerable improvement was effected by the treatment of the houses.

A similar quantity of solution was used, but, in this case, the living rooms were sprayed heavily while the bedrooms, staircases and passages were sprayed lightly.

In the living rooms those surfaces which are most favoured by flies receive the heaviest spraying. Surfaces which by reasons of the temperature and lighting are most attractive to flies are easily seen by the marks they leave. Electric lights and wiring should not be overlooked. Windows should be sprayed but when the liquid dries a white deposit is left; this has to be wiped off, but, in wiping it off, the glass only should be cleaned and the insecticide left on the sash bars and frames.

3. Cockroaches and Ants, etc.

Infestations of cockroaches and ants, and wasps nests, have been effectively dealt with by the powder containing D.D.T. The powder is forced into the nests of the insects; under paving slabs, into cracks in plaster and brickwork and under stoves and similar locations.

Where the insects run a covering of powder should be left for them to walk through. This should not be swept up any sooner than can be avoided. The powder is more effective when it is dry, and it is wasteful to distribute it on wet surfaces.

HOUSING.

1. During the year schemes were projected for the erection of the following number of houses:-

Pre-fabricated	Beech Drive	30
Permanent	Swingate Lane Estate	20

The Council were also in process of acquiring a housing site at Durrants Farm for approximately 300 houses.

2. During the year the following number of houses were:-

	<u>Local Authority.</u>	<u>Private Enterprise.</u>
(a) <u>Commenced only.</u>		
Pre-fabricated	30	-
Permanent	Nil	4
(b) <u>Completed</u>		
Pre-fabricated ...	Nil	-
Permanent	Nil	-

WATER SUPPLIES.

The District is served by the Great Berkhamsted Water Company. The supply is constant and sufficient in quantity and is chlorinated.

No complaints have been received during the year as to the quantity or quality of the water.

The water is derived from the chalk and no complaint of plumbo-solvency or contamination by lead has occurred.

The Local Authority and the Company each cause samples of the water to be examined bacteriologically on alternate months. A sample of treated water collected on 7th July showed on examination 3 untyped B. coli per 100 c.c. This is attributed to faulty collection, as a repeat sample from the same tap, and a sample of untreated water seven days later, were both free from B. coli.

3,029 houses are supplied with water direct from the main. Four houses (occupied by 15 persons) are not connected, but a scheme is in preparation to extend the mains to serve these houses.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified cases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

Disease.	total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Death
Scarlet Fever	16	16	Nil
Measles	341	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	15	5	1
Poliomyelitis	2	1	Nil
Pneumonia	2	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Dysentery	14	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases.

Pulmonary 5
Non-Pulmonary 3

Deaths.

Pulmonary 4
Non-Pulmonary 1

TYPHUS FEVER.

Precautionary disinfection was carried out of articles belonging to a person who had recently worked in intimate contact abroad with persons suffering from Typhus Fever.

BERKHAMSTED RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of
resident population) 1945 5,684

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	64	32	32	) Rate per 1,000 of the
	(Illegitimate	11	4	7	) estimated resident
					population 13.2

Still-births	(Legitimate	1	-	1	) Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-	) (live and still)
					births 13.2

Deaths	61	26	35	Rate per 1,000 of the
				estimated resident
				population 10.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total
		(live and still) births.
Puerperal and Post		
Abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	66.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	62.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	90.9

Actual number of deaths under one year:	Legitimate	4	) Total
	Illegitimate	1	) <u>5</u>

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses - Public Health Acts	106
		Housing Acts	35
		Overcrowding	14
		Infectious Disease & Disinfection.	20
		Complaints investigated	42
		Drainage inspections and tests	64
		Tents, Vans and Sheds	12
		Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	32
		Bakehouses	18
		Schools	16
		Petroleum Stores	15
		Work in Progress	278
		Verminous Premises	8
		Cesspools	65
		Canal Boats	15
		Licensed Premises (Hotels & Beerhouses) ...	8
		Rivers and Streams	18
		Visits re. Evacuation and Billeting	95
		Premises Disinfected	12
Meat and Food.	-	Slaughterhouses	Nil
		Cowsheds and Dairies	93
		Milk Samples taken - "Minit" Test	15
		Water Samples taken	4
		Food Stores	10

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses	163
Drainage and Cesspools	52
W.C.'s	58
Dairies and Cowsheds	16
Factories	8

Notices Served and Complied with.

<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.44.</u>	<u>Served 1945</u>	<u>Complied</u> <u>with 1945</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.45.</u>
9	38	40	7

Disinfestation.

There has been no disinfestation during the year.

HOUSING.

1. During the year Schemes were projected for the erection of the following number of houses:-

(a) Pre-fabricated Nil.

(b) Permanent -

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Type.</u>
Aldbury	4 ...	(2 x Parlour, 3-bedroom. (2 x Non-Parlour, 2-bed.
Wigginton	6 ...	(2 x Non-Parlour, 2-bed. (4 x Non-Parlour, 3-bed.
Lt. Gaddesden	6 ...	(2 prs Non-Parlour, 3-bed. (1 pr. Parlour, 3-bed.

The Council were also in process of acquiring housing sites at Potten End, Long Marston and Wilstone.

2. During the year the following number of houses were:-

	<u>Local Authority.</u>	<u>Private Enterprise.</u>
(a) <u>Commenced only.</u>		
Permanent	12	2
(b) <u>Completed</u>	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES.

Constant water supplies from private water works companies are completely available in the parishes of Tring Rural, Puttenham, Wigginton and Aldbury from the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company; in the parish of Lt. Gaddesden and hamlet of St. Margarets from the Ashridge Water Company; and partially for the parishes of Northchurch and Potten End from the Great Berkhamsted Water Company. These supplies have been sufficient and satisfactory throughout the year, except that in January a break-down of pumping apparatus at Ashridge Water Company works resulted in a serious shortage of water in the area of supply, which included the Ashridge Hospital. Energetic action, assisted by the participation of the Regional Ministry of Health staff, ensured an emergency supply by water carts, the water being obtained from the Berkhamsted Water Company; this was augmented at Ashridge Hospital by use of underground tank rain-water. Suitable steps were taken in arranging for the adequate treatment of water used during the period, which lasted, off and on, for five weeks. A main was, in addition, laid into the area from the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company's system, but it was very little used. The Chiltern Hills Spring Water Co. had very little water to spare; moreover, although the supply of water was well below normal most of January and the first week in February, the actual number of days when

WATER SUPPLIES (continued).

absence of water was extensive were few, and it was dealt with adequately by water cartage. Severe weather considerably increased the labour of maintaining a reasonable service during the period. Bacteriological samples taken at the end of this period were satisfactory.

There is no piped water supply to the hamlets of Frithesden and Nettleden, or to a row of about 21 houses on Northchurch Common.

There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvency occurring in the water; supplies have a considerable degree of hardness. No action has been necessary in respect of contamination.

About 90% of the houses in the District receive main water supplies from the water works, and of those houses about 2% are supplied by standpipes; they contain about 2.5% of the population of the District.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified diseases (excl. Tuberculosis) during the year:-

Disease	Total cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths	Remarks
Diphtheria	3 H	3	Nil	H Service cases.
Scarlet Fever	7	7	Nil	-
Measles	133	Nil	Nil	-
Whooping Cough	13	Nil	Nil	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-	-
Abortus Fever	1	Nil	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	Nil	-
Typhoid Fever	1 H	1	Nil	H Military
Infective Hepatitis ..	9	9	-	-
Dysentery	36 H	35 H	-	H incl. 34 service cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.

Pulmonary Nil.
Non-Pulmonary 1.

Deaths.

Pulmonary 3.
Non-Pulmonary Nil.

 TRING URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of
 resident population) 1945 4,941

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	65	39	26	) Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.0
	(Illegitimate	9	4	5	
Still-births	(Legitimate	2	1	1	) Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 26.0
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths		69	33	36	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
Puerperal and Post		
Abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births 40.5
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 46.2
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births Nil.

Actual number of deaths under one year: Legitimate 3) Total
 Illegitimate -) 3

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	General and Houses	220	
		Cases of Infectious Disease	164	
		Cases of Infectious Disease removed		
		to Hospital	13	
		Disinfections carried out	16	
		Complaints investigated	66	
		Verminous Houses cleansed	7	
		Drainage inspections and tests	16	
		Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces ...	36	
		Defective W.C.'s	2	
		Drains unblocked	2	
		Wells condemned	2	
		Water laid on	16	houses
		Dampness remedied	1	
		Defective floors	9	
		Defective Window Frames	8	
		Defective Door	1	
		Defective Stairs	2	
		Defective Copers	2	
		Defective Rainwater Gutterings	8	
		Defective Plaster	1	
		Rats reported	2	
		Meat condemned (apart from carcasses) ...	7	lots.
		Tinned Meat condemned	36	"
		Tinned Fish condemned	4	"
		Tinned Vegetables condemned	4	"
		Tinned Milk condemned	2	"
		Sausages condemned	4	"

Meat and Food.	-	No. in District.	Visits.
		Bakchouses	7
		(Slaughterhouses	1 (in use)
		(Note: Carcasses are examined daily by Meat	
		(Inspector	
		Dairies, Milkshops,	
		and Cowsheds	17
			56

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses	29
W.C.'s	2
Drains	2
Wells	2
Miscellaneous	39

Disinfestation.

Precautionary disinfestation was carried out of articles belonging to a person who came into the District after having been a close contact of a case of Typhus which had occurred in this Country.

HOUSING.

During the year schemes were projected by the Council for the erection of the following number of houses:-

Park Road Site ... 46 Permanent houses - three-bedroom parlour type.
(12 commenced January 1945).

WATER SUPPLIES.

The whole District, with the exception of the hamlet of Bulbourne and a small group of cottages at Little Tring, is supplied by the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company, which is shortly to be taken over by the Bucks Water Board.

The water is of excellent quality and no restrictions in the supply were imposed during the year.

Samples for bacteriological examination are taken every month by the County Health Laboratories and in every case the result has been satisfactory.

No chemical analysis was made, but the hardness may be taken as 8 degrees.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

A chlorine dosing apparatus is in use.

During the year water has been laid on to 16 houses formerly supplied by well water; there remain about nine houses still dependent on well water. Out of 1,477 houses, about 1,468 have a piped supply, but 28 of these are dependent upon stand-pipes. In the case of 63 houses the tap is in a detached wash-house.

The Council are in negotiation with the Water Company as to the extension of a piped supply of water to the hamlet of Bulbourne.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified cases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	13	Nil
Measles	139	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	5	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Polioencephalitis	1	1	Nil
Poliomyelitis	2	2	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.

Pulmonary 2
Non-Pulmonary 2

Deaths.

Pulmonary 1
Non-Pulmonary 1

-----oOo-----

TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

	Number of Live Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 population	Number of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 population	Number of Infant Deaths	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	-	16.1	-	11.4	-	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	-	19.1	-	13.5	-	54
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 1931 Census)	-	19.2	-	12.3	-	43
London Administrative County	-	15.7	-	13.8	-	53
Hemel Hempstead Borough .	396	18.75	220	10.4	15	37.9
Hemel Hempstead R.D.	184	19.0	107	11.1	3	16.3
Berkhamsted U.D.	158	14.4	128	11.7	5	31.6
Berkhamsted R.D.	75	13.2	61	10.7	5	66.7
Tring U.D.	74	15.0	69	14.0	3	40.5

